



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:0867

HB 3282 RELATING TO CORAL

Statement for
House Committee on
Ocean and Marine Resources
February 9, 1990

By
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Paul Jokiel, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Richard Brock, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Ray Tabata, Sea Grant

HB 3282 would prohibit the sale of stony coral of the taxonomic order Madreporaria, including the Fungidae or Pocilloporidae families after July 1, 1991.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

HB 3282 is nearly identical to HB 434 passed last year by the 1989 legislature but vetoed by the Governor. As we indicated in our statement last year, because it is impossible to distinguish dead Hawaiian stony corals from those brought into the state from other countries, particularly the Phillippines, a ban on the sale of all stony corals of the order Madreporaria and Fungidae or Pocilloporidae families is warranted. The only difference between last years bill and HB 3282 is the July 1, 1991 effective date of the ban in HB 3282. Presumably this extended date will permit the sale of the coral inventories currently held by the local coral merchants.

We believe that the present world trade in stony coral is having a significant impact on the coastal coral resources, hence we concur with the intent of HB 3282.